

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12502 091906Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 MCE-00 ACDA-12
SSM-03 DOE-15 SOE-02 EUR-12 /136 W
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R 091856Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8920
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MASS EG IS PEPR
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF ISRAEL/AIRCRAFT SALE

SUMMARY: AHRAM EDITORIAL MAY 9 REPLIES TO BEGIN'S CALL FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS AND TO DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL HAS OFFERED GREAT DEAL TO EGYPT BY ASSERTING THEY TRYING TO ESCAPE "IMPASSE" IN WHICH SADAT'S INITIATIVE PUT THEM. COVERAGE OF AIRCRAFT SALE REFLECTS POSSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATION COMPROMISING WITH CONGRESS DESPITE RECENT REAFFIRMATIONS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION STANDING FIRM. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAEL MISLEADING PUBLIC OPINION. AHRAM EDITORIAL MAY 9 NOTES BEGIN RECENTLY CALLED ON SADAT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND REVIVE "SPIRIT OF JERUSALEM AND ISMAILI-A." EDITORIAL ALSO NOTED DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT EGYPT DOES NOT WANT NEGOTIATIONS SINCE ISRAEL OFFERED HIM MORE THAN ANYONE COULD HAVE IMAGINED--COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12502 091906Z

OVER SINAI. ACCORDING EDITORIAL, STATEMENTS SHOW ISRAEL TRYING TO ESCAPE "IMPASSE" BY ARGUING ISRAEL HAS ALREADY RESPONDED TO PEACE INITIATIVE. "THIS, OF COURSE, IS ERRONEOUS." DAYAN STATEMENT RIDICULED BY AHRAM, ASKING WHAT SOVEREIGNTY MEANS IF ISRAEL WANTS TO KEEP SETTLEMENTS AND AIRPORTS IN SINAI, AND IF THESE CONTINUE EXIST UNDER ISRAEL'S PROTECTION. ISRAEL USING OCCASION OF

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION.

2. AIRCRAFT SALES. ALTHOUGH CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION ON AIRCRAFT DEAL NOTED, PRESS CARRIES REFERENCES TO COMPROMISE. AKHBAR ACCOUNT HAS SPOKESMAN POWELL "HINTING" THAT A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE REACHED BY SELLING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL IN NEAR FUTURE. KISSINGER TESTIMONY WAS CARRIED, AND WHILE HIS REMARKS SUPPORTING SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT WERE INCLUDED, ALSO INCLUDED WERE HIS STATEMENTS THAT IT NECESSARY TO GIVE MORE PLANES TO ISRAEL AND THAT SOME RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PLACED ON SAUDIS TO INSURE PLANES USE FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. REPORT FROM AHRAH'S LEVON KESHISHIAN IN WASHINGTON ALSO CLAIMS CARTER PLANS COMPROMISE BY SELLING ADDITIONAL PLANES TO ISRAEL. IN REPORTING POSSIBILITIES OF COMPROMISE IN ITS STORIES PRESS MAY BE PREPARING PUBLIC TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE, BUT WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THAT WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ARE MERELY RUNNING AHEAD OF OFFICIALLY-GUIDED EDITORIALS.

3. NEW DIPLOMATIC MOVES. AL AHRAH'S DIPLOMATIC EDITOR LEARNED EGYPT WILL START WIDESCALE DIPLOMATIC MOVES INVOLVING "NUMBER OF ARAB AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS." FONMIN KAMEL WILL START DRIVE BY VISITING SAUDI ARABIA. PRESS ADDS KAMEL WILL ALSO DELIVER IMPORTANT STATEMENT BEFORE SSOD IN NEW YORK MAY 20 AND THAT WHILE IN U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 12502 091906Z

HE WILL DISCUSS ME DEVELOPMENTS WITH SECRETARY VANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES
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Draft Date: 09 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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